

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously presented) A method in a server system for processing documents comprising information related to one or more geographic locations, said method comprising for each document the steps of:

- determining geographic coordinates of the one or more geographic locations described or referenced in the document;
- encoding said geographic coordinates in a geographic address; and
- tagging said document with said geographic address.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 comprising the further step of:

- tagging said document with one or a plurality of geographic attributes related to the geographic location described or referenced in the document.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the step of tagging said document with said geographic address comprises :

- tagging said document with cartographic coordinates of at least one of the geographic locations described or referenced in the document.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the geographic coordinates of the geographic location described or referenced in the document are:

- bi-dimensional and expressed in term of longitude and latitude; or
- three-dimensional and expressed in term of longitude, latitude and altitude.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein said step of encoding geographic coordinates of the location described or referenced in the document in a geographic address comprises the further steps of:

- computing absolute geographic coordinates (X,Y) of said location wherein:
 - the absolute longitude X is the length of the arc of the terrestrial parallel that goes from the Greenwich meridian to said location in a clockwise direction; and,
 - the absolute latitude Y is the length of the arc of terrestrial meridian from the North Pole to said location.
- including said absolute geographic coordinates (X,Y) in said geographic address tagged in said document.

6. (Previously presented) A server system comprising means adapted for carrying out the method according to claim 1 or 2.

7. (Previously presented) A computer readable medium comprising instructions adapted for carrying out the method according to claim 1 or 2.

8. (Currently amended) A document that can be accessed on a server system from a client system in a network comprising one or a plurality of server systems and one or a plurality of client systems, comprising information related to a geographic location, said document characterized in that it comprises:

- a tag including a tag identifier and a geographic address, said geographic address comprising encoded geographic coordinates of the geographic location described or referenced in the document and said tag identifies the tag as being a geographical tag to enable geographic search capability of the tag.

9. (Currently amended) ~~The document according to the claim 8~~ A document that can be accessed on a server system from a client system in a network comprising one or a plurality of server systems and one or a plurality of client systems, comprising information related to a geographic location, said document characterized in that it comprises:

a tag including a geographic address, said geographic address comprising encoded geographic coordinates of the geographic location described or referenced in the document, wherein said tag also includes: one or a plurality of geographic attributes related to the geographic location described or referenced in the document to enable geographic search capability of both the geographic location and the geographic attributes.

10. (Original) The document according to any one of claims 8 to 9 wherein:

- said network is an Internet Protocol network;
- said document is a hyper text markup language (HTML) document;
- said one or plurality of server systems are Web servers;
- said one or plurality of client systems are Web clients.

11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 8 or 9 wherein the geographic coordinates of the geographic location described or referenced in the document are:

- bi-dimensional and expressed in terms of longitude and latitude; or,
- three-dimensional and expressed in terms of longitude, latitude and altitude.

12. (Previously presented) The document according to claim 8 or 9 wherein said encoded geographic coordinates of the geographic location include:

- absolute geographic coordinates (X,Y) of said location, with X being an absolute longitude X and Y being an absolute latitude Y, wherein:
 - the absolute longitude X is length of an arc of a terrestrial parallel that goes from a Greenwich meridian to said location in a clockwise direction; and,
 - the absolute latitude Y is length of another arc of a terrestrial meridian from a North Pole to said location.

13. (Previously presented) A method in a client system for searching documents according to claim 8 or 9 in a network comprising one or a plurality of server systems, said method comprising the steps of:

- specifying a reference point;
- determining geographic coordinates of said reference point;
- encoding said geographic coordinates in a geographic address;
- searching on the plurality of server systems for documents tagged with said geographic address.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 13 comprising the further steps of:

- specifying one or a plurality of geographic attributes;
- searching on the plurality of server systems, for documents tagged with said one or plurality of geographic attributes.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 13 comprising the further steps of:

- specifying a geographic area around the reference point;
- determining geographic coordinates of said geographic area;
- encoding said geographic coordinates in a fuzzy geographic address;

- searching on the plurality of server systems, for documents tagged with a geographic address corresponding to a geographic location within the geographic area.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 13 wherein said step of encoding geographic coordinates of the reference point in a geographic address comprises the further steps of:

- computing absolute geographic coordinates (X_r, Y_r) of said reference point, with X_r being an absolute longitude X_r and Y_r being an absolute latitude Y_r , wherein:
 - the absolute longitude X_r is length of an arc of a terrestrial parallel that goes from a Greenwich meridian to said reference point in a clockwise direction; and,
 - the absolute latitude Y_r is length of another arc of a terrestrial meridian from a North Pole to said reference point ;
- including said absolute geographic coordinates (X_r, Y_r) in said geographic address (gURL).

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 15 wherein said step of encoding geographic coordinates of a geographic area around a reference point in a fuzzy geographic address comprises the further steps of:

- computing fuzzy geographic coordinates by replacing a wild card character for one or several less significant digits of absolute geographic coordinates (X_r, Y_r) of the reference point depending on a specified geographic area, said wild card character being interpreted as "any trailing string" ; and,
- including said fuzzy geographic coordinates in said fuzzy geographic address.

18. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 13 herein said step of specifying a reference point comprises the step of:

- selecting the reference point on a digital map by means of any pointing device; or specifying the reference point once for all; or
- specifying the reference point once for all; or
- measuring ~~the~~ an actual position of the client system and using said actual position as the reference point.

19. (Previously presented) A system, in particular a client system, for carrying out the method according to claim 13.

20. (Previously presented) A computer readable medium comprising instructions adapted for carrying out the method according to claim 13.

21. (Currently amended) A method in a client system for displaying geographic information comprised in documents according to claims 8 or 9, said method comprising, for each document, the steps of:

- retrieving absolute geographic coordinates from the geographic address tagged on the documents; and,
- mapping the geographic location according to said retrieved absolute geographic coordinates.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 21 comprising the further step of:

- associating in a table in the client system, network address and the retrieved absolute geographic coordinates of each document.

23. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 21 wherein said step of mapping geographic locations comprises the further step of:

- defining a scale according to:
 - the absolute geographic coordinates of documents; and/or
 - some reference geographic coordinates and scales.

24. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the documents are identified responsive to a search query, and wherein the step of mapping a geographic location comprises the step of:

- displaying a sensible icon for:
 - pointing to the retrieved absolute geographic coordinates of the geographic location; and,
 - pointing to the network address of the document.

25. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 21 13 comprising the further step of:

- mapping the reference point.

26. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 22 comprising the further steps of:

- pointing to an icon by means of any pointing device; and
- accessing the document by means of the network address in the table ~~that is associated with said icon.~~

27. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the documents are identified responsive to a search query, and comprising the further steps of:

- pointing to an icon representing the geographic location by means of any pointing device; and
- responsive to said pointing, retrieving a minimum information related to the geographic location associated with said icon, said minimum information comprising in particular:
 - a title or name of the geographic location;
 - a short description of said geographic location;
 - geographic coordinates of said geographic location.

28. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 24 wherein said step of mapping geographic locations comprises the further step of:

- displaying said icons on a geographic map with the same scale and reference point that is used to ~~map~~ display said sensible icons icon.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21 wherein said step of mapping geographic locations comprises the further step of:

- retrieving a geographic map from one or a plurality of server systems; or
- storing a geographic map in the client system.

30. (Previously presented) A system, in particular a client system, for carrying out the method according to claim 21.

31. (Previously presented) A computer readable medium comprising instructions adapted for carrying out the method according to claim 21.

32. (Previously presented) A method in a data processing system for processing documents, said documents comprising information related to one or more geographic locations, said method comprising for each document the steps of:

- determining cartographic coordinates of at least one of the geographic locations described or referenced in the document; and
- tagging said document with said cartographic coordinates.